

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Koffler Gallery presents *Three Generations (Kodiak Art Club, 1953)* – a new body of work from Vancouver-based artist Adad Hannah

Toronto, ON, April 8, 2014 – The **Koffler Gallery** is proud to present a solo exhibition of brand new work by **Adad Hannah** at its new downtown home at **Artscape Youngplace**, 180 Shaw Street, Toronto.

Three Generations (Kodiak Art Club, 1953) presents work developed specifically for the Koffler Gallery by the internationally acclaimed Vancouver-based artist. Curated by Koffler Gallery Director/Curator **Mona Filip**, the exhibition runs from **April 24 to June 8, 2014**, opening with a free public reception on **Thursday, April 24**, from **6 to 9 PM**.

Adad Hannah: *Three Generations (Kodiak Art Club, 1953)* is a Featured Exhibition in the 2014 **Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival**.

Adad Hannah has earned an international reputation for his video-recorded *tableaux vivants* that often reference art history and paradigms of museum practices. Staging models to hold poses for an extended time, he deconstructs the photographic image, undermining its authenticity. Drawing attention to the performance inherent within photography, he creates a space for reflection on the production of meaning.

In this new body of work developed specifically for the Koffler Gallery, Hannah shifts focus to his personal history, re-animating a “frozen moment” captured eighteen years before he was born. His starting point is a yellowing photograph of his grandmother painting a portrait of her daughter at an art club on an American military base in Kodiak, Alaska in 1953. Hannah works in dialogue with his mother, Barbara Txi Hannah – the subject of the original photograph and an artist herself – collaborating to expand the moment under observation through a complex video and still installation.

Using photography, video-recorded performance and set design, Hannah breathes new life into the found image. The reenactment of the original Kodiak photograph is the centerpiece, along with the mock-up of the studio setting constructed for the video-shoot.

Other findings from the family archives, his mother’s autobiographical photo-collages, and recent interview recordings with his grandmother provide further insight into Hannah’s personal history. Source materials attempt to complete the picture, including the *The Kodiak Bear* article featuring the art club scene, the original and two copies of the oil painting, and Hannah’s own portrait of his grandmother from an earlier series, *Family Stills*.

Positioning for the first time a family member as collaborator rather than as subject or model, Hannah pushes his practice deeper than ever into the exploration of what has historically been the most popular genre of photography – the family snapshot. Moreover, he examines the conceptual and historic associations between the visual media of photography, painting and sculpture, revealing both artistic and museological strategies of exposure.

For more information and a full list of the Koffler’s spring and summer 2014 programs, please visit kofflerarts.org

Regular exhibition hours: Tuesday to Friday, 12 PM to 6 PM; Saturday and Sunday, 11 AM to 5 PM. Admission is free.

The Koffler Gallery gratefully acknowledges the support of the **Toronto Arts Council**, the **Ontario Arts Council**, and the **Canada Council for the Arts**. Funding to support the outfitting of the new Koffler

spaces at Artscape Youngplace has been provided in part through a generous grant from the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

ADAD HANNAH

Adad Hannah was born in New York in 1971, spent his childhood in Israel and England, and moved to Vancouver in the early 1980's. He currently lives and works between Montreal and Vancouver. He has exhibited widely on the international scene, including the Samsung LEEUM Museum (Seoul 2011), Prague Biennial 5 (2011), Museo de Bellas Artes (Santiago, Chile 2011), 5th International Video Art Biennial at the Israeli Centre for Digital Art (Holon 2011), Canadian Biennial at the National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa 2011), Australian Centre for Photography (Sydney 2010), Liverpool Biennial (2010), Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (2010), the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (on view), the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (2008, 2009), Zendai MoMA, Shanghai (2009), the Vancouver Art Gallery (2007), Ikon Gallery (Birmingham, 2006), the 4th Seoul International Media Art Biennale (2006), Casa Encendida (Madrid 2006) and Viper Basel (2004). Hannah won the Toronto Images Festival Installation/New Media Award in 2004, and the Bogdanka Poznanovic Award at Videomedija 8. He has produced works at museums including the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the National Gallery of Canada, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Rodin Gallery (Seoul), and the Prado Museum (Madrid). His works are in many public collections, and he is represented by Pierre-Francois Ouellette art contemporain in Montreal and Equinox Gallery in Vancouver.

KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

Koffler Centre of the Arts is Canada's only multidisciplinary, contemporary Jewish cultural institution. It has a broad mandate to welcome all and present a wide range of artistic programs, through a global lens, in a distinctly Canadian context.

The Koffler programs around the City of Toronto at several locations. Koffler Gallery exhibitions and related programs and the Koffler's administrative offices are based at Artscape Youngplace, in the vibrant downtown West Queen West art and design district. Koffler visual art and ceramic classes for all ages are held at the Prosserman JCC on Sherman Campus. Koffler multidisciplinary programs take place across the GTA at various venues.

Koffler Centre of the Arts acknowledges the support of the Koffler Foundation, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Cultural Season Sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Ontario Arts Council through the Community and Multidisciplinary Arts Organizations Program, Artscape, our patrons and members.

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**For further information, interview requests
and high resolution images, contact:**

Tony Hewer
Koffler Centre of the Arts | Koffler Gallery
180 Shaw Street, Toronto M6J 2W5
647.925.0643 x224
E-mail thewer@kofflerarts.org



Newspaper article from Kodiak Bear, April 3, 1953. Shows Adad Hannah's grandmother Sally Gross painting a portrait of his mother Barbara Hannah.



The original 8" x 10" photograph used in the newspaper article "Artist Colony Formed on Kodiak Island" from Kodiak Bear, April 3, 1953. Shows Adad Hannah's grandmother Sally Gross painting a portrait of his mother Barbara Hannah.



Crop of the original photograph used in the newspaper article "Artist Colony Formed on Kodiak Island" from Kodiak Bear, April 3, 1953. Shows Adad Hannah's grandmother Sally Gross painting a portrait of his mother Barbara Hannah.



Sally In Albany, HD video, 5mins 34s, 2010. This video depicts Sally Gross in her apartment at an assisted living facility - the portrait she was painting in the image from the 1953 article can be seen in the background.